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ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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April 29, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman and Ranking Member,

I am requesting \$2,000,000 in funding for TCC Commercial Vehicle Driving (CDL) Program Expansion in fiscal year 2023 through the Economic Development Initiative account.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Tallahassee Community College (TCC) located at 444 Appleyard Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32304.

The funding would be used to expand TCC's CDL program by renovating their existing facility to accommodate more classroom space, adding the Class B (e.g. dump truck) endorsement training, and purchasing two additional trucks. This project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because the nation is suffering from a shortage of truck drivers. According to the Bureau of Labor Market Statistics, the February 2022 job total for the trucking industry equaled 1,549,100. In Florida's 5th District, positioned along the I-10 corridor, there are currently 875 trucking jobs available and a projected growth of 1,129 (9.7%) over the next few years. It is anticipated that this number will grow exponentially with Amazon's recent decision to locate a fulfillment center in the region. Moreover, the growth statewide in Florida is an estimated 96,9351 (10.7%)

Currently, TCC's commercial vehicle driving program is at max capacity with a year-long waiting list and the nearest similar program is either 55 miles to the east or 84 miles to the west. Out of TCC's 204 graduates in this program, 49% were from special populations, 79% were minorities, 19% female, and 75% received scholarships or funding from third-party entities to cover their tuition.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Al Lawson
Member of Congress